

## WASTE ISOLATION PILOT PLANT CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

The U.S. Department of Energy's **Waste Isolation Pilot Plant**, in Carlsbad, New Mexico, is charged with providing safe, permanent disposal of nuclear waste in deep salt beds beneath the desert of southeastern New Mexico. The plant has won New Mexico's Green Zia environmental excellence award in both 1999 and 2000. The plant was certified to ISO 14001 in 1997. It has already reduced hazardous waste by almost 60 tons and nonhazardous solid waste by more than 70 tons in its daily operations. The plant will expand on its waste reduction accomplishments by carefully examining work processes and will tackle energy expenditure through improvements in technology.

### AT A GLANCE

Industry Sector:	Public Facilities
Business:	Disposes of nuclear waste
Facility Employees:	500-1,000
Accomplishment :	Reduced hazardous waste Reduced solid waste
2003 Commitments:	Reduce hazardous waste Reduce total solid waste Increase reuse and recycling Reduce energy use
Address:	PO Box 2078 Carlsbad, NM 88221
Web Site:	<a href="http://www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us">www.wipp.carlsbad.nm.us</a>

## ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

### *Past Accomplishments*

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has demonstrated its commitment to environmental performance by reducing hazardous and nonhazardous wastes. Since 1997, the plant has:

- **Reduced hazardous waste** by 68%, or 55 tons, through various actions such as adjusting mine ventilation and maintenance scheduling to reduce the amount of condensation and production of lead-containing brine.
- **Reduced solid waste** by 10%, or more than 70 tons, through increasing reuse and recycling efforts and through purchasing reusable products.

### *Future Commitments*

The Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will target further reductions in hazardous and nonhazardous wastes, in addition to reductions in energy consumption. By 2003, the plant will:

- **Reduce hazardous waste** by more than 50% through evaluating work processes, identifying less hazardous product substitutions, and eliminating duplicate products.
- **Reduce total solid waste** by 18% through evaluating disposal requirements for subcontractors, implementing a closed-loop system for recycling carpet, and finding uses for scrap lumber, wire spools, and pallets.
- **Increase materials reuse and recycling** by 10% through identifying closed-loop systems for construction debris, identifying new wastes to recycle, and increasing recycling amounts.
- **Reduce energy use** by approximately 25% through minimizing equipment operating times and through technical improvements in industrial process equipment, lighting, heating, ventilation,

and air conditioning.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Because stakeholders are very concerned about the safe transport of nuclear waste to the disposal location, the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant developed several effective ways of communicating with the public. These include a toll-free information number; periodic face-to-face meetings in communities within a 100-mile radius of the plant; exhibit booths at fairs, conventions, and meetings; public tours of the facility; interaction with news media; and active participation in regulatory public hearings.